Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam and Nagaland.

2. Eri: Assam, Meghalaya Manipur, Bihar, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa and Mizoram.

3. Muga: Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur & Mizoram.

Tasar, Muga and Eri silk are used for manufacturing fabrics. Eri silk is also used to make shawjs. The limited muga production mainly feeds the domestic demand with export of negligible quantity. There is a good export demand for tasar silk goods. Fabrics made from eri yarn blended with mulberry or tasar yam also has good export demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Cent'-al Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/ programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R & D training, inf.dstructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units £;.d implementation of certain dcvelop-ment/investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also take up specific sericulture projects in association/collaboration with the States. As far as North Eastern states are concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB are as follows:—

(i) North Eastern Action Plan covering all States of the North Eastern region is presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increases in acrege by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units, etc. The project is being continued during the IXth Plan period.

(ii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing various cocoons.

(iii) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.

(iv) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.

(v) Besides, to boost the production of silk in the country, 34 Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for implementation by the Government through Central Silk Board.

(vi) An Integrated Muga and Eri De-velopment Project has been prepared by the Central Silk Board for North Eastern States including Assam, for implementation during IXth Plan period at a cost of Rs. 95.00 crores.

**Production of cotton textile**

4721. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that production of cotton textiles in the country has been declining for the ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/contemplated to restore the earlier production level?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA); (a) No, Sir. The production of cotton textiles, i.e. cotton yam and cotton cloth, has progressively increased during the period 1988-89 to 1997-98. The annual growth rate in the production of cotton yam and cotton cloth during this period has been 6.2% and 4.5%, respectively.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.